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EPA Taps CERF to Develop Environmental Technology Verification Center

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 24, 1996— The technology verification activities of the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF) have expanded to encompass the environmental field with the recent initiation of a $1.84 million cooperative agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Under the terms of the agreement, CERF will participate in a three-year pilot program to establish an environmental technology verification center.

The CERF pilot will be based on the "virtual center" model pioneered by CERF through ts CEITEC and HITEC programs. The virtual center model is designed to verify the performance and cost of technologies by leveraging existing facilities and expertise. Rather than develop a large organization with high overhead, the CERF approach capitalizes on existing networks of industry experts and public, private, and university laboratory facilities, and utilizes a small team of facilitators to manage the process. This approach allows CERF to use the most appropriate testing facilities and the most knowledgeable experts to design cost-effective evaluations that fit the technology being tested.

CERF's President, Harvey M. Bernstein, states, "This center continues CERF's mission of developing the means of moving innovation into practice and builds on the demonstrated success of our HITEC program. We look forward to the opportunity to apply this process in the environmental area using the same broad-based partnerships of industry, government, and academia that have made our work successful in the past."

The project will be managed by William E. Kirksey, CERF's Vice President in charge of research. Mr. Kirksey has more than 25 years in the engineering profession, with a focus in environmental engineering and technology. He has senior level experience with a variety of public and private organizations. Mr. Kirksey joined CERF in January 1995, from Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), where he served as Assistant Vice President and Environmental Department Manager for a major demilitarization program.

The center will be the largest to date of EPA's pilot projects under its newly created Environmental Technology Verification Program (ETV). This program was announced in 1995 in President Clinton's Bridge to a Sustainable Future, a strategy to advance innovative environmental technologies. ETV pilots verify the performance of new, commercial-ready environmental technologies and transfers this information to important customer groups such as state permit agents and consulting engineering organizations.

The CERF pilot is unique in that it will be conducted in a solely market-driven manner with minimal government oversight.

The CERF center's market-based approach is also unique in that it will examine a broad range of technologies (including pollution avoidance, control, remediation/restoration, and monitoring) to focus on those that serve industry needs. The center will be guided by an Executive Committee composed of representatives from the full range of industry stakeholders, and will be designed to develop a public-private partnership that will lead to an understanding of the market and provide a path to implementation for new technologies. This market focus will also aid in accomplishing a key objective of the program, which is developing a self-supporting center.
For more information on the center, contact Will Kirksey of CERF at (202) 842-0555 or e-mail wkirksey@cerf.org.

CERF is an independent, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization created by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and headquartered in Washington, DC. CERF began operation in 1989 to bring together diverse groups within the civil engineering community to ***"facilitate, integrate and coordinate"*** *common solutions to complex research challenges facing the civil engineering profession. CERF works with the design and construction industry to expedite the transfer of innovative research results into practice.*

The ***Highway Innovative Technology Evaluation Center (HITEC)*** *is a nationally recognized service center and clearinghouse for implementing highway innovation; one that serves as a focal point for the collaborative evaluation of innovative technologies and helps to expedite their transfer into practice.*

CEITEC *is a clearinghouse for innovative technologies and a first-stop service center whose activities focus on the evaluation of market-ready technologies applicable throughout the public works and civil engineering community.*

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